

# SW Louisiana National Wildlife Refuge Complex Hunting Regulations 2016-2017

## *Cameron Prairie, Lacassine, and Sabine*

	Cameron Prairie NWR	Lacassine NWR	Sabine NWR
Deer - Archery (either sex)	October 1 through the Friday before the LA Coastal zone duck and coot waterfowl season. Bag limit - in accordance with state regulations. Hogs may be taken with bow and arrow during deer archery season.	October 1 through the Friday before the LA Coastal zone duck and coot waterfowl season. Bag limit - in accordance with state regulations. Hogs may be taken with bow and arrow during deer archery season.	Not available
Waterfowl Hunt Scouting	Not available	Entire fishing season (Mar 15 - Oct 15) & Mon-Fri during the week prior to LA Coastal zone duck and coot season.	Entire fishing season (Mar 15 - Oct 15) & Mon-Fri during the week prior to the LA Coastal zone duck and coot season.
Waterfowl General Hunt	Not available	Wed, Thur, Sat & Sunday during the LA Coastal zone duck and coot season and September teal season. Designated areas only. Closed Friday.	Wed, Thur, Sat & Sunday during LA Coastal zone duck and coot season and September teal season. Designated areas only. Closed Friday.
Waterfowl Lottery Hunts (Youth under 18 years of age)	Select days during the LA Coastal zone duck and coot season. By permit only.	Select days during 2nd split of LA Coastal zone duck and coot season. By permit only.	Not available
Waterfowl Lottery Hunts (Seniors 55-years or more)	Select days during the LA Coastal zone duck and coot season. By permit only.	Select days during 2nd split of LA Coastal zone duck and coot season. By permit only.	Not available
Snipe	Opens on the day following closure of LA Coastal zone duck and coot season.	Not available	Not available
Dove	Open first split of LA dove season only.	Not available	Not available
Alligator Lottery Hunts	Designated days within the LA alligator season.	Designated days within the LA alligator season.	Designated days within the LA alligator season.

Southwest Louisiana National Wildlife Refuge Complex Headquarters and Cameron Prairie  
1428 Highway 27  
Bell City, LA 70630  
Phone: 337/598 2216  
Fax: 337/598 2492

Website:  
[http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Cameron\\_Prairie/](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Cameron_Prairie/)

August 2016



### Annual Southwest Louisiana National Wildlife Refuge Complex Hunting Special Use Permit

(Cameron Prairie, Lacassine and Sabine National Wildlife Refuges)

When signed and in your possession this special use permit allows you to hunt on Lacassine, Cameron Prairie and Sabine National Wildlife Refuges for the 2016 - 2017 season. Your signature acknowledges your compliance with the regulations associated with the National Wildlife Refuges.

Signature

Date

Permits are not transferable.

Expires 2/28/17

## The Complex

The Southwest Louisiana National Wildlife Refuge Complex consists of Cameron Prairie, Lacassine, Sabine and Shell Keys National Wildlife Refuges. The Headquarters Office is located at Cameron Prairie National Wildlife Refuge. The Complex provides a wide variety of wildlife dependent public uses such as hunting, fishing, wildlife photography, environmental education, wildlife interpretation and observation. For more information about these or other national wildlife refuges visit the national wildlife refuge web site at [refuges.fws.gov](http://refuges.fws.gov).

## General Hunting Regulations for Cameron Prairie, Lacassine and Sabine NWRs

Hunting regulations are designed to protect the sportsman and wildlife populations. Hunting seasons open on the Complex are listed in this brochure. The regulations within this brochure supplement the general regulations that govern hunting on national wildlife refuges as set forth in Title 50 Volume 6 Chapter 1 Parts 18-199 Code of Federal Regulations. All hunting is in accordance with applicable state licensing and regulations, unless otherwise stated in refuge specific regulations.

Individuals using the refuges are subject to inspections of licenses, hunting equipment, daily limits, boats, vehicles and their contents by federal and state officers. Only the species listed in this brochure may be taken during the seasons indicated in this brochure.

## Requirements

### Permits

The permit located on the front of this brochure, when signed and in your possession, serves as your authorization to participate in all hunts occurring throughout the Complex, except limited lottery hunts. Permits are required for all hunters. Signing the permit acknowledges your compliance with the regulations contained herein. In addition to signing and possessing this brochure permit; youth and senior waterfowl lottery hunters and alligator lottery hunters are required to comply with the special conditions of the specific lottery hunt.

Youth and senior waterfowl hunt dates are published in area newspapers in September each year. Applications for the lottery hunts are accepted September 1 through October 1. Please contact the Complex Headquarters Office at Cameron Prairie for hunt dates and application requirements. Duplicate or incomplete applications will be discarded. Successful applicants will be notified.

Hunters selected for lottery waterfowl hunt must be able to walk to hunt blinds and manually transport hunting equipment. Lottery hunters who are unable to use their hunt day are encouraged to notify the refuge as soon as possible.

### Alligator

Alligator hunt application requirements and application deadlines will be published at [https://www.fws.gov/refuge/Cameron\\_Prairie/](https://www.fws.gov/refuge/Cameron_Prairie/) under the News Release section during January 2017. Applications are accepted for 30 days and then a public lottery drawing is scheduled to make the selections.

### Hunting Dogs

Hunters are encouraged to use retriever dogs during waterfowl, dove and snipe hunts, but dogs must be under the control of the handler at all times.

### Access Routes

Access roads and trails may be closed at any time due to adverse conditions.

### Transportation of Firearms and Archery Equipment

When traversing the refuge by boat or vehicle, all firearms and archery equipment must be unloaded and cased. An unloaded firearm is defined as having no ammunition in the chamber, magazine, cylinder, or clip when attached to the firearm. Unloaded archery equipment is defined as having the arrow removed from the string. Crossbows must also be un-cocked.

### Harvest Data Requirements

Each hunting party is required to complete a harvest report form listing numbers and species of game taken. Forms may be placed in designated check station drop boxes after each hunt or delivered to the Refuge Complex office at Cameron Prairie NWR.

### Universal Access

Individuals with Physically challenged Hunter Permits issued by Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) may be eligible for special access accommodations during refuge archery deer hunts. Contact Refuge Complex headquarters for more information.

### Archery Hunting

Archery hunters are encouraged to complete a certified bow hunters' education course.

## Activities Prohibited throughout the Complex

- Parking outside designated roads and parking areas or blocking gates or roadways with vehicles.
- Possession of toxic shot.

- Hunting within 150 yards of another hunting party.
- Hunting within 50 yards of a canal, waterway, public refuge road or designated hiking trail.
- Use of air thrust boats, utility type vehicles (UTV's), and all terrain vehicles (ATV's) are prohibited unless specifically permitted.
- Use of any non-biodegradable material used as flagging or trail markers.
- Construction of or occupying a permanent blind or stand.
- Removal of any hunting blinds or equipment owned by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
- Leaving waterfowl hunting-related equipment beyond each day's hunt.
- Use of remote cameras.
- Hunting from a tree in which a metal object has been driven to support a hunter.
- Use of climbing spikes.
- Cutting or removing any live vegetation, limbs, etc.
- Importing Phragmites species (a.k.a. Roseau cane) for blind material or cover.
- Littering. All spent shells must be picked up and brought out of the hunt area along with other trash.
- Camping, vehicles, and vessels left on the refuge at night.
- Fires.
- Disturbing, collecting, injuring or attempting to disturb, collect or injure any plant, artifact, rock, specimen or animal on the refuges.
- Feeding of wildlife.
- Swimming.
- Horses.
- Animals or pets roaming at large. All pets must be kept on leashes at all times.
- Possession or distribution of bait while in the field and hunting with the aid of bait, including: any grain, salt, minerals, other feed or non-naturally occurring attractant, on the refuge.
- The use or possession of alcoholic beverages while hunting.
- Target practice with any weapon.
- Commercial guiding activities.

## Signs and Boundaries

Signs are useful tools in regulating the use of a public area. The wording of the signs below apply to the areas behind the signs. Pay attention to the signs, watch for boundary corners, and check your location with the maps.

### These signs apply to all refuges



This sign marks the outer refuge boundary. Public entry is generally authorized. However, other refuges in the system may have different regulations concerning general entry. Always know the regulations before entering.



This sign means that the area is closed to all entry. Do not trespass behind this sign for any reason.



This sign marks the boundaries of the waterfowl hunting areas. This is the only area of the refuge where waterfowl hunting is allowed.



This sign marks the boundary of the waterfowl hunt area. No hunting past these signs.

Youths are generally defined as those individuals 17 years of age or younger. Youths under the age of 16 may hunt without hunter education certification if they are accompanied by and under direct supervision of a person born before September 1, 1969 that has a valid hunting license; or they are accompanied by and under the direct supervision of a person who is 18 years of age or older and has proof of successful completion of a hunter education course approved by Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. Direct supervision means that the person being supervised is within a normal audible voice contact and in direct line of sight of the supervising person at all times while hunting. The supervising adult is responsible for ensuring that youth hunters do not engage in conduct that would constitute a violation of refuge regulations.

### Lottery Waterfowl Hunting

Special lottery hunts are held throughout the LA Coastal zone duck and coot waterfowl season. Hunters under 18 years of age and adults 55 years of age and older will be allowed to apply. Additional permits are required. Permits will designate hunt day and blind number. Only ducks, geese, gallinules, and coots may be taken.

### Big Game Hunting Regulations

Archery hunting of white-tailed deer is permitted throughout the refuge, except designated closed areas, in accordance with state WMA general regulations and bag limits. Incidental take of feral hogs

is permitted during archery deer season only. Equipment use follows state approved archery equipment regulations. Deer and incidental hogs may only be taken with archery equipment. The refuge season is open from October 1 through the Friday before the LA Coastal zone duck and coot waterfowl season. Hunters may not enter the hunting area earlier than 4 am and may not remain later than two hours after sunset. Each hunter must complete and turn in a Big Game Harvest Report (FWS Form 3-2359), available from a self-clearing check station, after each hunt.

### Deer Stands

Only portable deer stands may be used. Hunters may place deer stands on the refuge 1 day before the deer archery season and must remove them from the refuge within 1 day after the season closes. Hunters may place only one deer stand on the refuge, and deer stands must have owner's name, address, and phone number clearly printed on stand. Hunters must place stands in non-hunting position at ground level when not in use.

### ATV Use

ATV use is prohibited except to physically challenged hunters in possession of a valid Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Physically Challenged Hunter Permit and Refuge Special Use permit. Physically Challenged Hunter ATV trails are open October 1 through the Friday before the LA Coastal zone duck and coot waterfowl season. ATV's may only be used by appropriately permitted individuals on designated levees and roads.

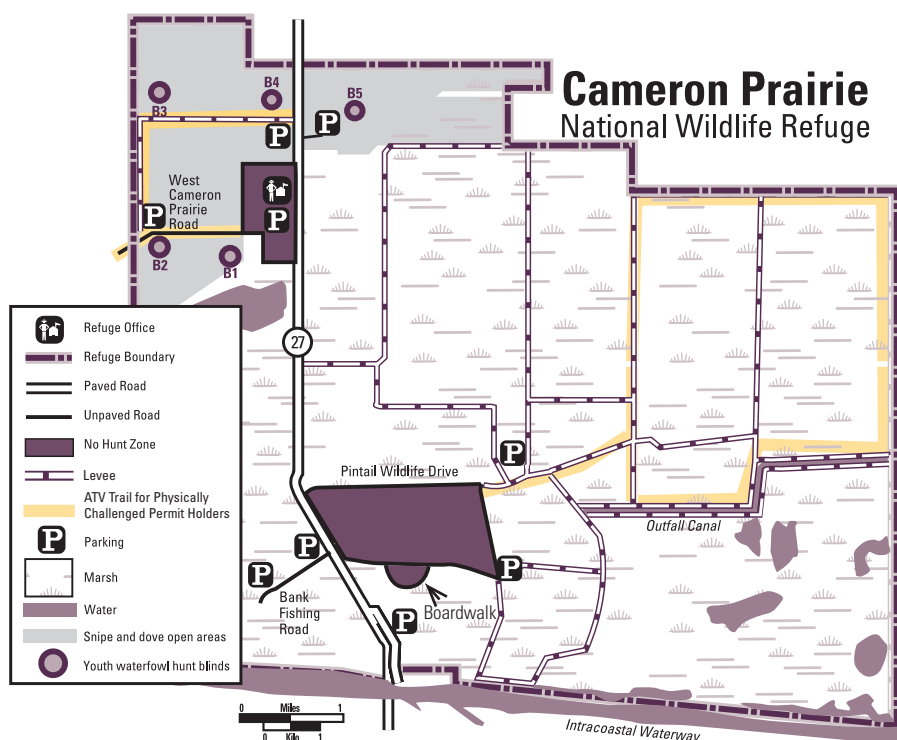
## Cameron Prairie NWR Specific Hunting Regulations

Cameron Prairie established in 1988, is located in Cameron Parish in southwestern Louisiana. The refuge is composed of fresh marsh, impoundments and former agriculture fields. Cameron Prairie NWR consists of two separate and distinct units, East Cove Unit and Gibbstown Unit. The East Cove Unit is closed to all hunting. Prohibited Activities are listed on page 2.

### Gibbstown Unit

#### Waterfowl and Upland Game Hunts

Youth/senior waterfowl, snipe, dove, and big game hunts are permitted in designated areas only. Adults may supervise no more than two youths on waterfowl, snipe and dove hunts and no more than one youth for big game hunts.



## Snipe and Dove Hunting

Snipe hunting opens on the refuge on the day following the closure of the LA Coastal zone duck and coot season in accordance with state regulations. Dove hunting on the refuge is open all days of the first split of the state Dove season. Both Snipe and Dove hunting is in accordance with LA hunting regulations with the exceptions that only approved non-toxic shot may be used.

## Lacassine NWR Specific Hunting Regulations

Lacassine was established in 1937 to preserve wintering habitat for waterfowl in the coastal prairie of southwestern Louisiana. Refuge habitat consists of approximately 34,878 acres of freshwater marshes and scattered uplands. The refuge is noted for its large concentrations of waterfowl and other species of wildlife.

Waterfowl and big game hunts are permitted in designated areas only. Adults may supervise no more than two youths on waterfowl hunts and no more than one youth for big game hunts.

Youths are generally defined as those individuals 17 years of age or younger. Youths under the age of 16 may hunt without hunter education certification if they are accompanied by and under direct supervision of a person born before September 1, 1969 that has a valid hunting license; or they are accompanied by and under the direct supervision of a person who is 18 years of age or older and has proof of successful completion of a hunter education course approved by Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. Direct supervision means that the person being supervised is within a normal audible voice contact and in direct line of sight of the supervising person at all times while hunting. The supervising adult is responsible for ensuring that youth hunters do not engage in conduct that would constitute a violation of refuge regulations.

## Safety

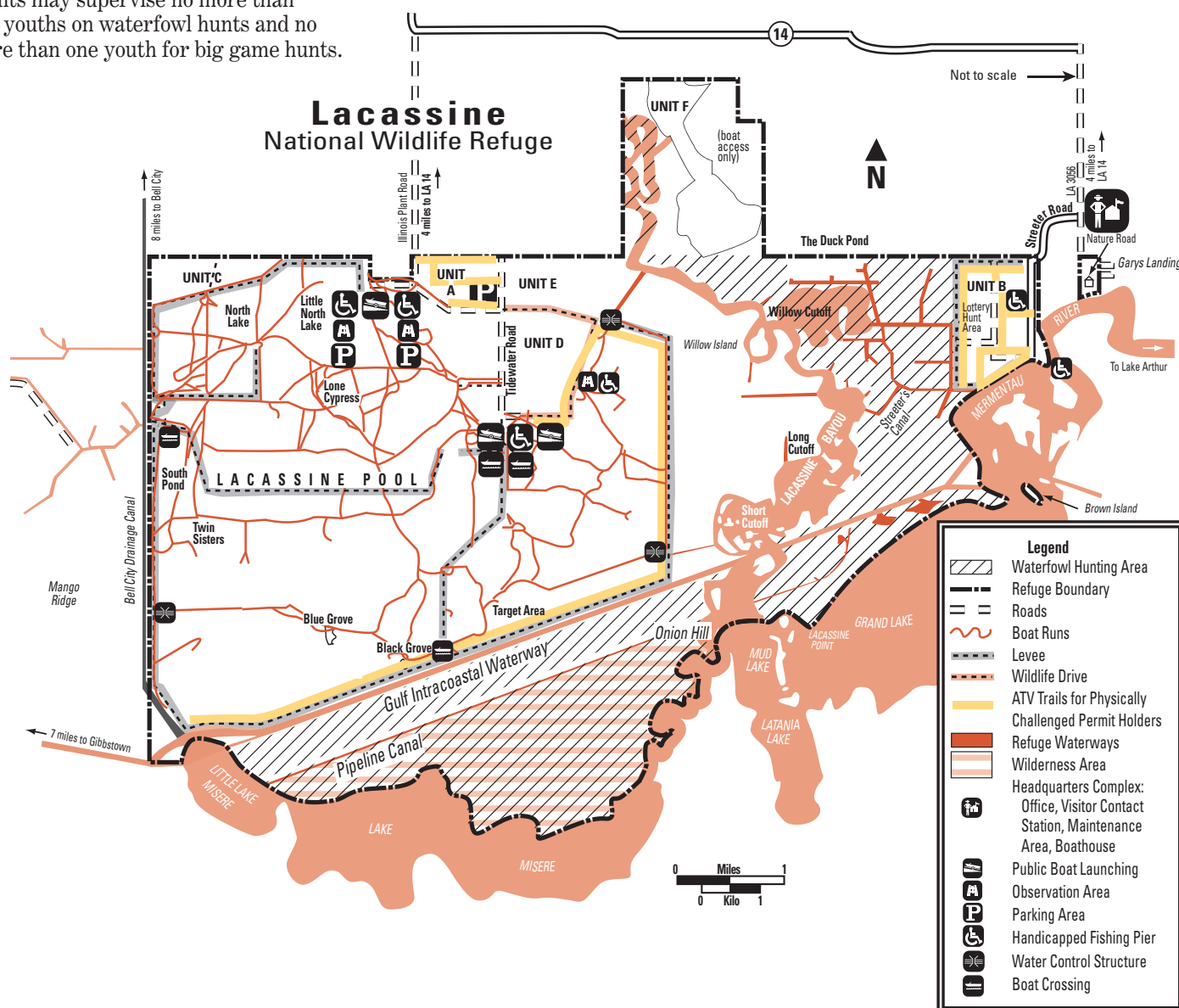
Hunters are cautioned that motorboat travel on the refuge may be hazardous due to water conditions, weather, and restricted view from vegetation.

## Waterfowl Hunting Regulations

Only ducks, geese, gallinules, and coots may be taken. See map for areas open to waterfowl hunting.

## Hunt Period

Hunting is permitted on Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday of the LA teal and coastal zone duck and coot waterfowl seasons. The refuge is closed to hunting during the goose-only portion of the waterfowl seasons. Hunters can enter the refuge and launch boats no earlier than 4 am and may not remain on the refuge later than 2 pm. All decoys and blinds must be removed from the refuge daily.



### *Scouting*

Hunters may scout refuge hunt areas during the refuge open fishing season, March 15 through October 15, and Monday through Friday during the one week prior to the opening of the LA coastal zone duck and coot season. Possession of blind material while scouting is prohibited.

### *Special Waterfowl Lottery Hunts*

Special lottery hunts will be held during the second split of the LA coastal zone duck and coot season for Unit B. Adults and youth may apply. Additional permits are required. Permits will designate hunt day and hunt area number. Contact refuge headquarters for more details.

### **Big Game Hunting Regulations**

Archery hunting of white-tailed deer is permitted in designated refuge areas in accordance with state WMA general regulations and bag limits. Incidental take of feral hogs is permitted during archery deer season only. Equipment use follows state approved archery equipment regulations. Deer and incidental hogs may only be taken with archery equipment. The refuge season is open from October 1 through the Friday before the LA coastal zone duck and coot waterfowl season. Hunters may not enter the hunting area earlier than 4 am and may not remain later than two hours after sunset. Each hunter must complete and turn in a Big Game Harvest Report (FWS Form 3-2359) available from a self-clearing check station, after each hunt.

### *Deer Stands*

Only portable deer stands may be used. Hunters may place deer stands on the refuge 1 day before the deer archery season and must remove them from the refuge within 1 day after the season closes. Hunters may place only one deer stand on the refuge, and deer stands must have owner's name, address, and phone number clearly printed on stand. Hunters must place stands in non-hunting position at ground level when not in use.

### *ATV Use*

ATV use is prohibited except to physically challenged hunters in possession of a valid Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Physically Challenged Hunter Permit and Refuge Special Use Permit. Physically Challenged Hunter ATV trails are open October 1 through the Friday before the Louisiana Coastal zone duck and coot waterfowl season. ATV's may only be used by appropriately permitted individuals on designated levees and roads.

### **Prohibited Activities during Big Game Hunting**

Hunting in the headquarters area along Nature Road and along Lacassine Pool Wildlife Drive.

Boats in Units A and C.

Boats in Lacassine Pool and Unit D from October 16 through March 14.

Boats with motors larger than 40 horsepower in Lacassine Pool.

Use of motors including trolling motors is prohibited in designated wilderness areas (see map)

### **Sabine Wildlife Refuge Specific Hunting Regulations**

Sabine was established in 1937 and is one of the primary wintering refuges for waterfowl in the Mississippi Flyway. This refuge consists of 125,000 acres of marsh with numerous ridges, bayous, ponds, lakes, man-made canals and levees, and wooded islands. The total available hunt area is approximately 34,000 acres in size.

Public hunting of ducks, geese, gallinules, and coots are permitted in designated areas of Sabine NWR only. Adults may supervise no more than two youths. Youths are generally defined as those individuals 17 years of age or younger. Youths under the age of 16 may hunt without hunter education certification if they are accompanied by and under direct supervision of a person born before September 1, 1969 that has a valid hunting license; or they are accompanied by and under the direct supervision of a person who is 18 years of age or older and has proof of successful completion of a hunter education course approved by Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. Direct supervision means that the person being supervised is within a normal audible voice contact and in direct line of sight of the supervising person at all times while hunting. The supervising adult is responsible for ensuring that youth hunters do not engage in conduct that would constitute a violation of refuge regulations.

### *Scouting*

Hunters may scout refuge hunt areas during the refuge open fishing season, March 15 - October 15, and Monday through Friday during the one week prior to the opening of the LA coastal zone duck and coot season. Possession of blind material while scouting is prohibited.

### *Hunt Period and Access*

Hunting is permitted only on Wednesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, and Sundays of the LA coastal zone duck and coot waterfowl season. Hunters can enter the refuge and launch boats no earlier than 4 am and may not remain on the refuge later than 2 pm. All decoys and blinds must be removed from the refuge daily. Boats may enter the refuge from West Cove Recreation Area or through Burton Canal via Black Bayou (see map). Walk-in hunters and hunters launching small boats may access Hunt Unit E by driving on Central Canal Road. As required by State law, all non-motorized boats must have all around white lights. No trailers are allowed on Central Canal Road. The refuge is closed to hunting during the goose-only portion of the waterfowl seasons.

### *Boat, Motor and Operation Limits*

Boats may not be dragged across levees. Outboard motors and go-devil type or air cooled motors may be operated only in designated refuge lakes, canals, bayous, and boat trails. Operation of any outboard or air cooled motor in the refuge marshes is prohibited. Operation of trolling motors is permitted.

### *Safety*

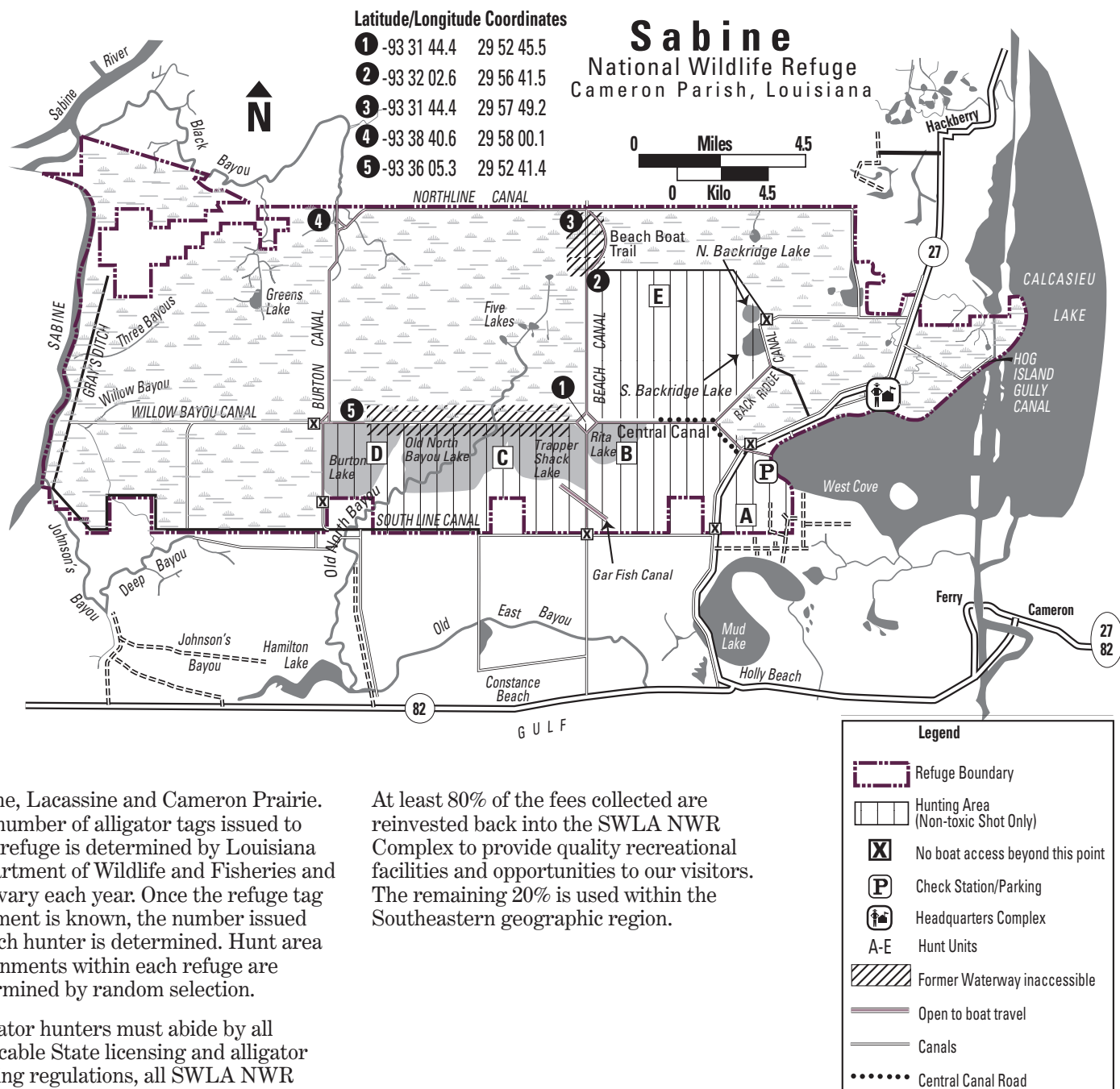
Hunters are cautioned that motorboat travel on the refuge maybe hazardous due to water conditions, weather, and restricted view from vegetation. Most of the newly designated lakes are 12" x 24" in depth. It is important to know your boat and motor operation limits so you get in and out safely.

### **Southwest Louisiana National Wildlife Refuge Complex Lottery Alligator Hunt Program and Recreational Fee Program**

The next opportunity to apply to participate in the SW Louisiana National Wildlife Refuge (SWLA NWR) Complex Recreational Alligator Hunt Program as a Permitted Refuge Alligator Hunter will be March 2017.

To apply for an alligator hunting permit, applicants must be Louisiana residents at least 18 years of age. If born after September 1, 1969 applicant must have completed Hunter Education Certification prior to application period. Applicant must possess the skill, ability, and equipment necessary to hunt alligators (possibly 40-120 alligators/season) safely and efficiently in marsh habitat.

Hunters are selected through a public lottery drawing for each of the three refuges within the SWLA NWR Complex:



Sabine, Lacassine and Cameron Prairie. The number of alligator tags issued to each refuge is determined by Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and may vary each year. Once the refuge tag allotment is known, the number issued to each hunter is determined. Hunt area assignments within each refuge are determined by random selection.

Alligator hunters must abide by all applicable State licensing and alligator hunting regulations, all SWLA NWR Complex general hunting regulations, and all special conditions associated with the Refuge Complex lottery alligator hunt program special use permit.

The SWLA NWR Complex Alligator Hunt Program is part of The Recreational Fee Program. Each permitted hunter is required to return forty percent (40%) of the gross income and/or value of all alligators harvested to the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

In 2004, Congress passed the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act which allows the government to charge a fee for recreation use of public lands managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

At least 80% of the fees collected are reinvested back into the SWLA NWR Complex to provide quality recreational facilities and opportunities to our visitors. The remaining 20% is used within the Southeastern geographic region.

